



IAN RICKUSS MP
MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

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Adjournment

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Amberley State School

Mr RICKUSS (Lockyer—NPA) (10.01 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the Amberley State School which was built on its current site in the 1980s by the National Party government to service the areas of Amberley, Willowbank, Ebenezer and the Middle Road area around Purga. On 27 June the Prime Minister announced that he would fund a replacement school for Amberley as part of the Amberley Australian Defence Force base redevelopment. The school at Amberley is a vital part of the local community. It is the hub for the after-hours care centre, toy library, scouts and guides. Not only do the local communities benefit from all these facilities but also the service families of Amberley are well serviced by the school and other facilities that benefit the local community.

I attended a meeting in February which informed the local community that the ADF base at Amberley would require the relocation of the school. Paul Watson, ADF representatives, Education Queensland representatives and a lot of disgruntled community members, school families and community groups were present at this meeting. We were informed that if the federal government were to fund a new school Education Queensland would consult widely with the community. Meetings between the Amberley State School committee, the education minister and other members of this dysfunctional government have occurred since February. Federal MP Cameron Thompson has worked very hard for the local communities of Amberley, Willowbank, Ebenezer and Walloon. The Prime Minister, Mr Howard, on 27 June promised \$26.8 million for a new school in the Amberley area that would house over 300 students. This is to be done in consultation with the state government.

However, the local community is now very concerned that the local Labor members of Ipswich have been done over by the minister. We now have an excuse that the school cannot go in the Amberley-Willowbank area because of the lack of sewerage. I table for the information of the parliament a copy of an invitation I received back in March 2006 for the opening of the sewerage system at Greenbank State School.

Tabled paper: During his speech tabled a copy of an invitation to Greenbank Pre School regarding the opening of Kele Effluent Wastewater Treatment system.

Greenbank State School has 900 pupils. It had a septic system. The member for Logan and I organised to have a recycled sewerage system put into Greenbank State School. The minister, Mr Welford, came along and opened it and spoke in glowing terms about what a great system it would be and how it was a prerequisite for other schools in the state. I am sure that this type of system would suit Amberley State School as a recycled water project. The recycled water project benefits Greenbank State School. They have had green ovals through the drought and have utilised this water. The federal government will fund a suitable site but this site must also be suitable for the local community in the Amberley-Willowbank area. That is where the people want the school. They do not want this school relocated in Yamanto to replace the Churchill State Primary School which is virtually landlocked. This school must go in the local Amberley area.